

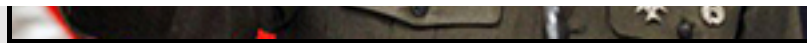


TIP OF THE SPEAR

MARINES MAY HAVE TO CUT 8,000 MORE IF SEQUESTER REMAINS



The Marine Corps may have to cut an additional 8,000 troops beyond its planned reduction to 182,000 if automatic spending cuts are not rescinded, Gen. James F. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, said June 26. The Marine Corps plans to reduce the size of the active-duty corps as part of overall reductions in defense spending. Today's force is about 193,000, down from a peak of more than 202,000. Possible further reductions would mean that in the event of a large war, the Marine Corps would not be able to rotate forces



but would have to deploy them until the end of the conflict. "I don't want this to happen," Amos said, "we've articulated that risk to

the Secretary of Defense." He said no decision has been made regarding the further cuts. **Read more**



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

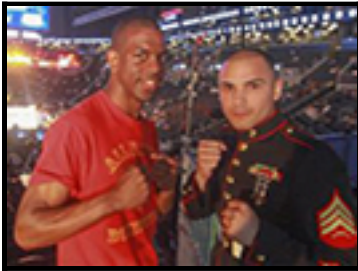


U.S. Marines and Sailors conduct female engagement training with Jordanian Armed Forces soldiers during Exercise Eager Lion 2013 in Al Quweira, Jordan, June 14. Exercise Eager Lion 2013 is an annual multinational exercise designed to strengthen military-to-military relationships and enhance security and stability in the region by responding to modern-day security scenarios. *(Photo by Staff Sgt. Edward Guevara)*



IN THE NEWS

VETERAN REPRESENTS MARINES IN BOXING RING



Veteran Jamel Herring is representing the Marine Corps in the boxing ring, crediting the Corps with playing a large role in his becoming a member of the Olympic boxing team and being named the next Marine World Champion. "Mental toughness is the first thing you learn in recruit training and I've been through worse," he said, "They built me and made me a stronger person overall." Herring has been boxing since 2001 and was a member of the Marine Corps' boxing team during his service. Numerous Marines still look up to him and watch his fights. [Read more](#)

MARINE AND K-9 THAT SAVED HIM REUNITED



Lance Cpl. Bradley O'Keefe and a heroic Labrador Retriever, Earl, are back together years after the dog alerted O'Keefe and 12 Marines, within seconds of an improvised explosive device (IED) exploding in Afghanistan on April 14, 2010. O'Keefe was his handler and on that day, he was alerted when his partner detected the IED on a foot bridge as the Marines approached. O'Keefe was seriously injured by shrapnel and would be hospitalized for seven surgical procedures over the next five days. Earl was also injured but went back into service after he recovered while O'Keefe went home to upstate New York. "Getting him back is kind of like filling a hole that's been there," O'Keefe said. [Read more](#)

FIRST MV-22 PILOTS EARN DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS



Maj. Michael Hutchings and Capt. David Haake were decorated with the



Distinguished Flying Cross on June 26, becoming the first Marine MV-22 Osprey pilots to ever receive the award. "This was selfless devotion to the mission," said Maj. Gen. Robert Hedelund, the commanding general of the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, "The bottom line is that it's about Marines taking care of Marines." Five Marines were also awarded Air Medals for their heroic acts. The team landed in Afghanistan in the middle of a firefight June 27, 2012. The general and all seven newly decorated Marines agreed that the success of the near-fatal mission was a team

effort. [Read more](#)

46 YEARS LATER, MARINE LAID TO REST



Almost 46 years to the day Lance Cpl. Merlin R. Allen was killed in a helicopter crash in Vietnam in 1967 his remains are coming home to Wisconsin so he can be laid to rest next to his parents. For decades, the Marine's remains lay undiscovered, but a recovery team excavated the crash site last year and found Allen's remains. Jeff Savelkoul, who survived the tragic crash, is relieved to see his comrade. "It's been a constant dream of mine, every night for 46 years," said Savelkoul, "He's coming home." [Read more](#)

CANCER SURVIVOR BECOMES NEWEST HONORARY MARINE



Daran Wankum, who was diagnosed with a brain tumor at age 18, always wanted to be a Marine -- and on June 13 he earned the title of Honorary Marine. The title is given only to civilians that exhibit extraordinary commitment and contribution to the Marine Corps. His father, Eric Wankum, says that his son had the same perseverance you would expect to see in a Marine, "Strength, and the ability to move on." The recruiters Wankum had become close with prior to his diagnosis showed their support by standing outside of Wankum's hospital room on the day of his surgery. [Read more](#)

WOUNDED VETERAN GETTING A PLACE TO CALL HOME



Wounded warrior Staff Sgt. Zachary Stinson rejoiced June 29 as he witnessed the groundbreaking of his soon-to-be new home, designed to include 150 features to help provide freedom and independence for him. On Nov. 9, 2010, Stinson stepped on an improvised explosive device while serving in Afghanistan, resulting in the loss of both legs and traumatic injuries to his hands. "As I get older I know my body is going to get worn down, and it isn't going to be the best circumstance," Stinson said. "It'll just be amazing to go into a house completely built for my disability." [Read more](#)

NUMBER OF MARINE EMBASSY SECURITY GUARDS DOUBLES



Marine Corps Embassy Security Group has received authorization to add 1,000 Marine embassy security guards over the next three years. The force is currently 1,200 strong. With the additional 1,000 Marines also comes an additional 35 locations the Marines could serve at while on Marine Security Guard duty and the responsibility to stand up a more than 120-man Marine Security Augmentation Unit (MSAU), which will be stationed on Quantico, Va. MSAU will be comprised of nine squads, each ready at a moments notice to augment the security forces at any given U.S. embassy around the world. [Read more](#)



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

JULY 4, 1801

President Thomas Jefferson reviewed the Marines, led by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, LtCol

William W. Burrows and the Marine Band, on the White House grounds. The smartly uniformed Marines performed drills and fired various salutes in observance of the new nation's 25th anniversary.



SEMPER FI

WORDS OF A MARINE 4-STAR WHO LOST SON IN COMBAT RESONATE



Gen. John F. Kelly spoke last month at the dedication of a memorial to 5th Marines -- the unit his son, 1st Lt. Robert Kelly, was fighting with when he was killed in 2010. The speech was just one of many Kelly has given to Marines, families and other groups since the loss of his son. His words have resonated, touching on themes that rarely get a wide airing. His talks have gone viral, earning him a broad following. "It extends beyond the Marine community," says Marine Col. Chris Hughes. A former enlisted infantryman, Kelly has risen to a four-star rank over a nearly 40-year career leading Marines. [Read more](#)

OUR MISSION

In the words of Lt. Gen. Victor H. "Brute" Krulak, "The United States does not need a Marine Corps...the United States wants a Marine Corps." As America's Expeditionary Force in Readiness, the Marine Corps is deployed across the globe, standing ready to respond to any crisis. The Marine Corps Connection is your one-stop source for the latest Marine Corps news and is published weekly by the Division of

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